

no more than 2.5% of the total weight of said plastic material throughout the plastic matrix formed by melting said plastic material, imparting a bitter taste to said plastic matrix effective to provide protection from damage due to chewing animals;

- c. Extruding said plastic matrix to form a protective sheath, whereby the constituent of said sheath will be shielded from damage caused by chewing animals.

2. ***Withdrawn***

- 3. ***Previously presented. Requesting cancellation***— A plastic compound comprising a molten polymer-based substrate further including a water-soluble compound having a disagreeable taste.
- 4. ***Previously presented. Requesting cancellation***— The plastic compound of claim 3 in which said water-soluble compound having a disagreeable taste is denatonium benzoate.
- 5. ***Previously presented. Requesting cancellation***— The plastic compound of Claim 4 in which said denatonium benzoate is amalgamated throughout the molten polymer-based substrate in the ratio of between 0.2 to 2.5 grams of denatonium benzoate for each 100 grams of polymer-based substrate, thereby incorporating the disagreeable

taste throughout the plastic compound and hence forming a barrier to chewing animals.

6. *New*—A method of making a sensorially-active device, said sensorially-active device having a polymer, a plasticizer, and an active chemical, the method incorporating said active chemical within a polymer matrix, wherein the improvement comprises the steps of:
 - a. ensuring that said active chemical is blendable with said plasticizer;
 - b. blending said active chemical with the plasticizer in a polymer matrix;
 - c. ensuring that the level of plasticizer is below a level that would cause said active chemical to leach out of said polymer matrix, whereby said active chemical is retained within said polymer matrix.
7. *New*—The method as recited in claim 6, wherein said polymer comprises flexible polyvinylchloride.
8. *New*—The method as recited in claim 7, wherein said active chemical comprises denatonium benzoate (Bitrex).
9. *New*—The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said plasticizer comprises a member of the class of plasticizers nominally used in the manufacture of flexible polyvinylchloride and in an amount that would nominally be used in the manufacture of flexible polyvinylchloride.

Request for Constructive Assistance

The undersigned has made a diligent effort to define the claims of this application so that they define novel properties and are clearly distinguished from the Prior Art. If for any reason the claims of this application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance,

applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03(d) in order that this application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

No new matter has been introduced by the amended claims.

Very respectfully,



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Certificate of Mailing



I hereby certify that this correspondence, and attachments, if any, will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to "Box Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450" on the date below.

Date: 17 MAR 2006
Inventor's Signature: Ted Ichino